

The Southeast News

VOLUME X, NUMBER 1

NOVEMBER 1961

Share Our Surplus Program Aids World's Hungry People

Every day — through the SHARE OUR SURPLUS PROGRAM of our churches — millions of hunger-stricken men, women, and children overseas are provided with life-giving foods from America's great store of agricultural abundance.

During the month of November churches all over America will hold special services and/or receive special offerings to support the SOS program.

Congregational Christian Churches are urged to cooperate in this needed endeavor which is supported by more than 30 denominations.

With most of the goods being donated from U. S. Government held stocks, with most inland and ocean freight costs defrayed either by our government or that of the recipient country, with thousands of dedicated volunteer workers giving of their strength and time in the world-wide distribution process, the Share Our Surplus program is the greatest food relief opportunity in the history of Christian service.

Every dollar given to SOS to aid suffering humanity provides more than 300 pounds of food

\$5 — Five SOS dollars will give a cupful of milk to each of nearly 37,500 hungry children.

\$10 — Ten SOS dollars will give bread to 9,000 undernourished people.

\$100 — One Hundred SOS dollars will give bowls of cereal to each of more than 300,000 destitute persons overseas.

During 1961 approximately 325 million pounds of free food will be distributed through the SOS program.

On Sunday, November 19, 1961, the 1961-62 SOS program will be launched.

The churches of the Southeast Convention are urged to receive offerings and to send the monies received to the Southeast Convention Office.

Rev. J. W. Davenport, Retired Minister, Dies

The Reverend James W. Davenport, for 45 years a Congregational Christian minister, died on Sunday, September 24, at Chattanooga, Tenn.

Retired from active service in recent years, although continuing to help in churches so far as his health permitted, Mr. Davenport served as pastor at Thorsby, Alabama, the Robbins, Tenn., parish and at Daisy and Soddy, Tenn.

A graduate of the old Atlanta Theological Seminary, Atlanta, Georgia, he was ordained to the ministry in 1916. He was one of the founders of the Mowbray Presbyterian Church and was instrumental in the construction of the church building.

The Rev. Mr. Davenport was a founder (in 1945), charter member and the first president of the Soddy Lions Club. For many years he was a member of the North Hamilton County Ministers' Association and also served as Scoutmaster of Boy Scout troops in the area.

It is said that Mr. Davenport conducted more funeral services in Hamilton, Rhea, Bledsoe, and Cumberland Counties than any other minister.

Mr. Davenport was born July 22, 1882, in Burke, Tenn. He was the son of the late James and Frances Brown Davenport, who were pioneer residents of Cumberland County. At the time of his death he had lived 79 full years.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Mrs. Martha Davenport, of Soddy; and by three sons, William Walter Davenport, Nashville, Tenn., Paul Davenport, Chattanooga, and Rev. Harold Davenport, Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The services for Mr. Davenport were held on September 26 and were conducted by Rev. William H. Shelton, minister of the Soddy and Daisy churches and Rev. Arnold Slater, minister of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga. Mr. Davenport will long be remembered in the Southeast Convention.



New Minister Installed At Langdale CC Church

The Reverend Mr. George Stowe was installed as the minister of the Langdale Congregational Christian Church in services held on Sunday, October 29th.

Mr. Stowe was born in Canaan, Connecticut. He attended Mount Herman Preparatory School, from which he graduated in 1942. During World War II he served as forward observer in the 908th Field Artillery Battalion, 83rd Infantry Division, participating in five major campaigns in Europe.

Following discharge from the service he entered the family business with his father. During these years he felt the call to the ministry.

In response to the call he left business as a career and entered Florida Southern College, from which he graduated in 1959. He completed his theological training at Vanderbilt Divinity School in 1961.

Mr. and Mrs. Stowe (formerly Miss Alice Laffargue, Canaan, Conn.) have three daughters, Carol Ann, 12, Holley, 11, and Janet, 9.

The Rev. Mr. Stowe was ordained to the ministry in Canaan, Conn., during September. He began his ministry at Langdale this summer.

Christian African Chief Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

The award of the Nobel Prize for Peace to one of the most respected Christian leaders in the world, Chief Albert Luthuli of South Africa, is an occasion for worldwide thanksgiving and rejoicing in the Christian church.

In his leadership of the African people, Chief Luthuli has demonstrated poignantly and tellingly the Christian virtues of patience, prudence, and love. He has witnessed firmly and unequivocally to the dignity of man and he has steadfastly demanded the freedom for his fellow Africans which he believes is theirs by right under the law of God.

He has suffered indignities and the suppression of his own freedom at the hands of his fellow citizens of the white race without once speaking out in anger or hatred against them. For this saintly man will admit no other man to enmity to himself. He reaches out to each and every other human being with a reconciling love which is the essence of his demonstration of the power of the Christian Gospel.

If the Protestant churches of America in their 152 years of work in overseas missions had done no more than to educate Chief Luthuli in missionary schools and nurture him in the church, they would have justified every dollar they had spent and the time of the thousands of dedicated persons who have labored in mission fields.

We of the United Church of Christ can be grateful that Chief Luthuli has spent his life in our fellowship. Each of us through sharing with him a loyalty to Christ, also shares in his achievement and in his suffering. But most importantly, we also share in his mission to achieve peace and freedom and personal dignity for all mankind. For Chief Luthuli and thousands of others, Christians like him all over the world not only represent the meaning of Christianity, they are the Christian mission to our day.

(The above statement was released by Dr. Alford Carelton, executive vice-president of the Board of World Ministries of the United Church)

Chief Luthuli is the son of an African Christian missionary who went from South Africa to Rhodesia in the service of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches.

The Story Of The Little Brown Church In The Vale

By Emily C. Lester

Funny, the ideas you get about churches when you are small. I thought the main difference between Congregational and Methodist churches was that the former always said "debts" in the Lord's Prayer and the latter said "trespasses" because that was true about those churches in my town. And when, in Sunday school, we sang about "The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood," I thought we were singing about our own little Congregational church in Whitehall, Michigan, which was painted tan.

Now, however, I have seen the "Little Brown Church" which is connected with the song of that name. It is located in the edge of Nashua, Iowa, and is a Congregational Christian church. Situated in a beautiful grove of trees and painted dark brown, it looks exactly as it should look.

The history is interesting. In 1857, a young man named William Pitts was going by stage from his home in Wisconsin to see his fiancée in Iowa. Stopping in Bradford (the town is no longer in existence) for a change of horses, the young man took a walk. He saw a wooded spot of rare beauty—as he wrote later, "There was no church there but the spot was waiting for it." When he got home he wrote "The Little Brown Church in the Vale."

A Congregational Church had been organized in Bradford in 1855. In 1859 a young minister, Rev. John Nutting, became its pastor and encouraged the members to build. Times were hard, but the church was finished in 1864—thanks to help from Dr. John Todd and his church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, which included the gift of a bell, the first in the county. The church was painted brown "for want of money to buy better paint."

That spring William Pitts returned to Bradford to teach a singing class in the academy. One evening the class went to the church and he brought out his manuscript of "The Little Brown Church in the Vale." Later it was published.

Churches Urged Respond United Clothing Appeal

If the churches of America send at least 15 million pounds of good, useful garments overseas this year, the needs of many thousands of people in Europe, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Latin America, who suffer for lack of clothing, will be met.

The clothing is distributed overseas by the representatives of the various denominations either singly or working together through Church World Service.

Church groups collecting clothing are urged to send, in addition to the garments, at least 8 cents per pound to pay for the costs of processing the clothes at the Church World Service Clothing Centers.

Overseas ocean freight, in many cases, is paid by the United States Government. Part of the eight cents defrays ocean freight to countries for which freight is non-reimbursable.

All kinds of good used clothing, blankets, cloth remnants, etc., are needed. Men's work shoes, children's shoes, and women's shoes in sizes 5 and larger are needed.

Clothing and checks (covering 8 cents per pound) should be sent to Church World Service Center, New Windsor, Maryland. The money (check) should be sent separately in a letter.

lished.

And so the song and the church finally got together — the dream fulfilled without the pastor and people knowing of the song!

An interesting sequel is that in 1916 Dr. Nutting, then living in Crystal Springs, Florida, and Dr. Pitts, who had become a medical doctor, were brought back to Bradford for a happy reunion. Dr. Pitts, at age 85, sang the song which had made the church famous.

Today the little church contains many mementoes of by-gone days, but it is an active church with services every Sunday. It has become a favorite place for marriages, and we were told that more than 1,100 were solemnized there last year. We were also told that the pastor is guaranteed a certain salary by the church — but the church pays only the amount he lacks after wedding fees! Although we did not verify this, we understood that the church usually does not have to pay anything.

If you are ever in the vicinity of Nashua, Iowa, you will enjoy a visit to "The Little Brown Church," as I did.

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Superintendent's Corner

The fall of the year can be a beautiful time for travel. It was so this year during the period of the fall association and conference meetings.

Although it was too early for the trees to display their brilliant colors of later fall, the countryside was lovely under generally fair skies and a friendly and warm sun.

The Rev. Joseph Moulton, our guest speaker on Our Christian World Mission, and I traveled more than 2000 miles and attended six conference and association meetings (a total of eleven days in meetings and two weeks in meetings and travel) during this period. The Rev. Emilie Pitcock, of course, also did the same.

It is a strenuous schedule. Yet it is also a rewarding experience. There is provided the opportunity to visit churches and to see people from the churches. There are times of seriousness and times of fellowship.

Because it is a strenuous schedule, there is a sense of relief when the last meeting is over. But greater than that is the sense that once again it has been fine to be a part of the annual association and conference meetings.

Superintendent's Schedule

November 5 — United, Columbus, Ga.
November 7-9 — National Town and Country Church Committee, Princeton, Ill.

November 12 — Atlanta, Central

November 19 — Antioch, Andalusia for Ordination of E. H. Henby

November 21 — Georgia Council of Churches

November 28 — Rural Issues Committee, Oak Park, Illinois.

December 3 — Chattanooga, Tenn.

NEW CONFERENCE AND ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

The following officers and chairmen of committees were elected or appointed by the conferences and associations during their annual meetings held in the month of October:

NORTH ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

Moderator — Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin

Vice-Moderator — Rev. Roger Whitley

Pastor-at-Large and Scribe — Rev. Guy L. Colbert

Southeast Convention Board of Directors — Rev. Guy L. Colbert

(The committee chairmen and members will be appointed at a later date by the moderator)

CENTRAL ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

Moderator — Rev. Harold C. Henderson

Vice-Moderator — Rev. Andrew Nelson

Secretary-Treasurer — Mrs. J. C. Fralic

Committee Chairmen

Ministry and Churches — Rev. J. R. Watson

Stewardship, Evangelism, and Missionary Education — Rev. G. G. Norris

Christian Education — Mrs. Marrell Rhodes

Survey and Church Aid — Mr. Fred Powell

S. E. Convention Board — Mr. Fred Powell

SOUTH ALABAMA - NW FLORIDA

Moderator — Rev. N. A. Long

Vice-Moderator — Rev. E. H. Henby

Scribe-Treasurer — Mrs. Bernice Carter

Committee Chairmen

Christian Education and Youth Work — Mrs. Judson Kelly

Stewardship and Missionary Education — Miss Dora C. Brackin

Evangelism and Worship — Rev. Earl Temple

Ministry and Churches — Rev. James W. Walters

Survey and Church Aid — Rev. M. O. Worley

Southeast Convention Board Representative (to be named)

EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION

Moderator — Rev. John D. Schofield

Vice-Moderator — Rev. Hugh Las-

December 6-8 — United Church Minister's Conference, Talladega College

seter

Secretary — Mr. H. P. Beaird

Treasurer — Mr. Ross McCormack

Southeast Convention Board — Mr. H. P. Beaird

Committee Chairmen

Ministry and Churches — Rev. Olin Sheppard

Missions and Stewardship — Rev. Warren Blankenhorn

Religious Education and Youth Work — Rev. Warner Noles

Evangelism - Worship - Fellowship — Rev. Roy Chatham

Music Director — Mr. E. C. Stevens

Pianist — Mrs. Walter A. Graham

KY.-TENN. CONFERENCE

Moderator — Rev. Clyde C. Flannery

Vice-Moderator — Mr. C. Everett Farmer

Secretary — Mr. Rufus G. Obrecht

Treasurer — Mr. Emerson P. Post

Southeast Convention Board — Dr. Paul R. Reynolds

Committee Chairmen

Ministry and Churches — Dr. Paul R. Reynolds

Survey and Church Aid — Rev. Arnold Slater

Evangelism — Rev. Harold W. Freer

Stewardship and Missionary Education — Rev. A. Ray Meserve

Christian Education and Youth Work — Rev. Annie R. Campbell

Christian Action — Mrs. Fred R. Muhleman

GA.-S. C. CONFERENCE

Moderator — Rev. Ralph D. Worley

Vice-Moderator — Rev. Charles Rary

Scribe — Mrs. Ione Kirkland

Treasurer — Rev. James T. McAdams

Southeast Convention Board Representative — Rev. J. Kermit Harris

Committee Chairmen

Ministry and Churches — Dr. Thomas Anderson

Evangelism, Stewardship, and Missionary Education — Rev. R. Henry Abbott

Survey and Church Aid — Mrs. Richard Churchill

Christian Education and Youth Work — Mrs. Edward L. Askren Jr.

On Sunday, December 10th, the Wadley Congregational Christian Church will observe its 50th anniversary. On this day Homecoming will be held and the new church chancel arrangement and appointments will be dedicated. Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr. is to be the guest speaker.

Places Of 1962 Fall Association And Conference Meetings

North Alabama — Town Creek, Old Liberty

Central Alabama — Seaman, Community

South Alabama - Northwest Florida — Antioch, Andalusia

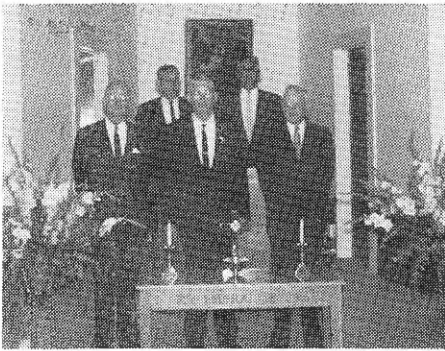
East Alabama

First Day — Five Points, State Line

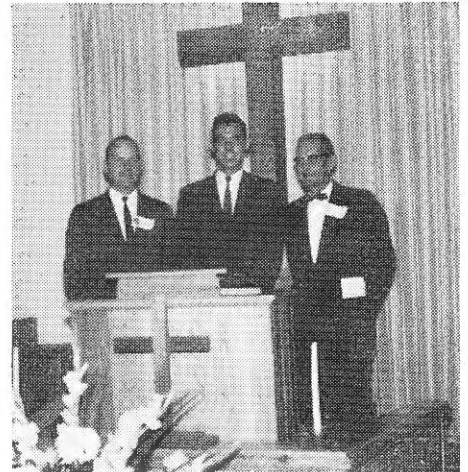
Second Day — Roanoke, First

Kentucky-Tennessee — (To be announced)

Georgia-South Carolina — Columbus, First



L to R: Joseph Moulton, guest speaker, Rev. Wallace Roberts, host pastor, Mr. Ross McCormack, treasurer, Rev. John D. Schofield, moderator, and Mr. H. P. Beaird, Scribe, at the East Association meeting at Rock Stand.



L to R: Robert Hendrix, moderator, Mr. Charles Rary, host pastor, and Rev. Ralph D. Worley, newly elected moderator at the Georgia-South Carolina Conference, Duncan's Creek Church.



Dinner on the Grounds at the North Alabama Association at Mt. Lebanon. In the background is Rev. Homer Barnes, host pastor. In the foreground is Rev. David Clark, moderator.



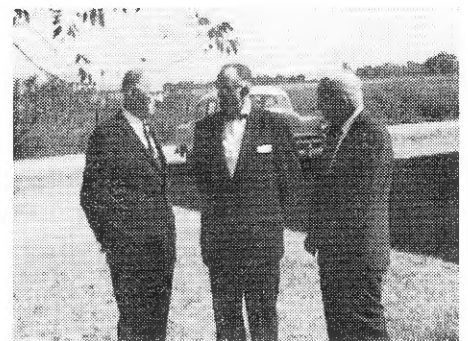
L to R: Rev. William Fulmer, Interim Minister at Montgomery, Rev. Harold C. Henderson, moderator of Central Association, Rev. G. G. Norris, host pastor, and Mr. Millard Fuller, moderator of the Montgomery Church, at Central Association, Watson's Chapel.

HERE AND THERE

A demonstration of Judo wrestling was given by Mr. Jake Leigeber at the Family Night at Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, on November 1. No casualties were reported as of this date.

* * * *

Homecoming was held at the Daisy Congregational Church on Sunday, October 29. Rev. William H. Shelton is the minister.



L to R: Rev. Joseph Moulton, guest speaker, Rev. Otto Culpepper, host pastor, and Rev. N. A. Long, moderator, at the Central Association, Blackwoods Church.

People ...



L to R — Rev. Arnold Slater, Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, and Rev. William H. Shelton.

Rev. William H. Shelton Ordained At Conference

The Rev. William H. Shelton, pastor to the Soddy and Daisy Congregational Christian Churches in Tennessee, was ordained to the Congregational Christian ministry during the annual sessions of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

The Rev. Mr. Shelton comes to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference from the Methodist Church, but in past years was associated with Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga.

Participating in the Service of Ordination were Rev. Clyde C. Flannery, moderator of the conference, Rev. Arnold Slater, chaplain for the sessions, Rev. Carolyn P. Welch, host pastor, and Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

Mr. William Hodnett Installed Lay Pastor

Mr. William Hodnett, active layman in the Lanett Congregational Christian Church, was licensed by the East Alabama Association and installed as lay-pastor of the Bethel Congregational Christian Church, West Point, Ga.

The Service of Licensure and Installation was held on Sunday, October 29, at the Bethel Church. Rev. John D. Schofield, moderator of the Association, presided. Participating were Mr. Calvin Smith, Rev. George Stowe, Rev. Olin Sheppard, Rev. Hugh Lasseter, and Supt. James H. Lightbourne Jr.

A reception followed the service. Mr. Hodnett is pictured on this page.

Churches ...

Expressions Of Sympathy

The members of Duncan's Creek Congregational Christian Church wish to express their sympathy to the family of Rev. C. W. Parker.

The Rev. Mr. Parker served the Duncan's Creek Church a number of years, having been elected as pastor on three different occasions. He was loved and respected by all.

Since he last served the church as pastor he was called on to conduct the funeral services for several members.

His declining health would not permit him to attend our Centennial in 1955 or the dedication of the new church building this year. We hold his memory over the years very dear and his passing is a great loss to each of us.

May God bless each member of his family in their sorrow.

* * * *

Sympathy also is extended by the people of the convention to Mrs. Guy L. Colbert and to Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin at the death of their respective mothers.

The Russell Woods Church, Phenix City, observed Homecoming on Sunday, November 5. The church, which must move from its present building because of the new by-pass around Phenix City, is engaged in building a new education and fellowship building at its new site. Rev. Warren Blankenhorn is the minister.



L to R — Mr. William Hodnett, President Walter A. Graham, and Rev. Joseph Moulton.

Events ...



Mrs. John D. Scofield pins corsage, presented by women, on Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock at East Alabama Association.

HERE AND THERE

Mrs. Edward L. Askren Jr. of Central Church, Atlanta, was the guest speaker at the East Tallassee Church on Sunday, November 5, Women's Fellowship Day.

Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock, Minister of Christian Education, was the guest speaker at Lanett Congregational Christian Church for this occasion.

* * * *

Mr. J. F. Meisamer, Executive Director of Uplands Retirement Project, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., attended the Second National Conference on the Churches and Social Welfare held at Cleveland, Ohio, October 23-27, as one of the CC delegates.

* * * *

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

A workshop for all of the Sunday schools in the Valley will be held Monday-Thursday, November 27-29, at the Lanett CC Church. The sessions will be held each night from 7 til 9.

Monday — Pre-school

Tuesday — Primary and Junior

Wednesday — Intermediate and Senior

Thursday — Adult

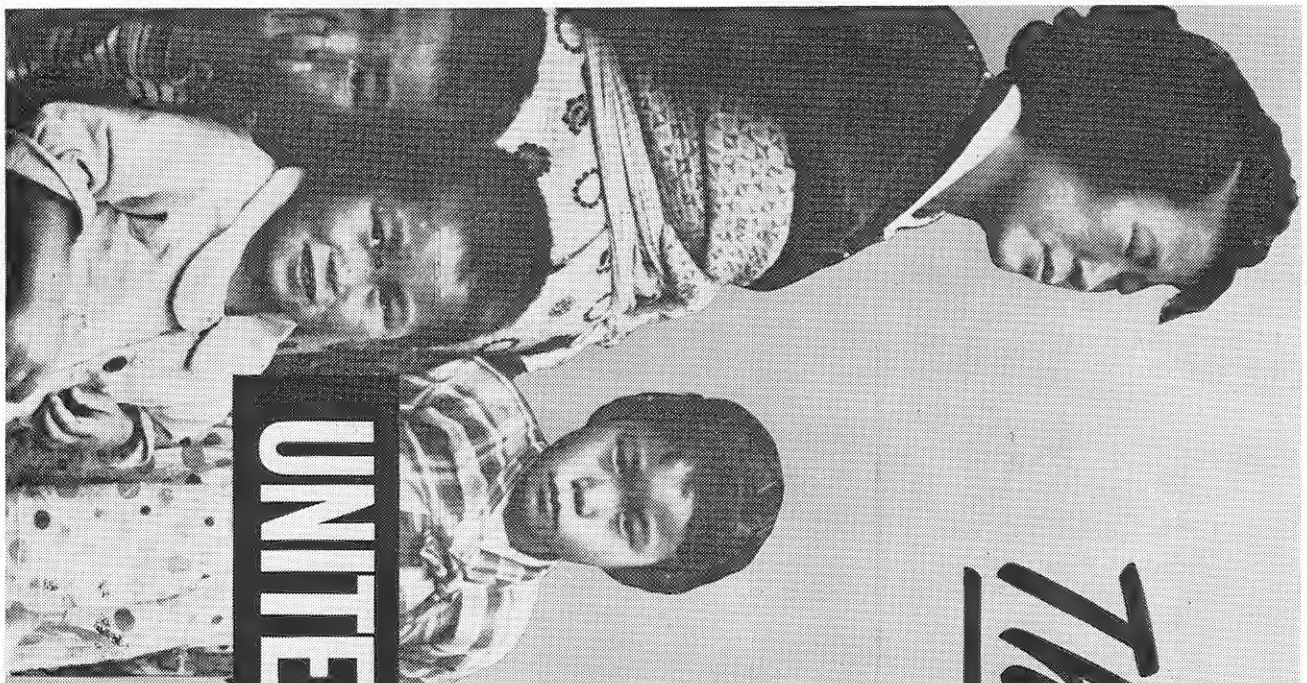
Rev. Emilie F. Pitcock will direct the workshops

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The Rev. Dr. Everett A. Babcock, superintendent of the Ohio Conference, will be the first treasurer of the new Board for World Ministries. He has begun his new duties but will divide his time until his successor in Ohio is chosen next May.

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
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